

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 8, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. IVERSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 442.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom were referred the papers in the case of J. M. Pammores, report:

The papers present the following case: The claimant was vice-consul of the United States at the port of Vera Cruz, in Mexico. At the close of the war, and after the final evacuation of Mexico by the American army, a considerable number of American citizens were, from various unavoidable causes, left in that country, many of them in a destitute condition, suffering from the effects of recent disease, ignorant of the language of the country, unable to obtain employment, and without the means of returning to their own country. Under these circumstances they appealed to the vice-consul, the official representative of their country, for immediate relief, and for the means of returning home. Mr. Pammores not having the control of any public funds for this purpose, applied to Hon. Nathan Clifford, then in that country on a special mission, for the means of relief, but was answered that his authority did not extend to that subject. But Mr. Clifford in answer to the inquiry whether if private funds were expended under the emergency for the relief of these unfortunate citizens, it would be refunded, informed Mr. Pammores (as the latter states) "that there was every probability that, when the case of these distressed Americans should be known at Washington, his disbursements in their behalf would be instantly refunded."

Upon the strength of this assurance, Mr. Pammores sent home ninety persons, at an expense of \$1,927 87, including subsistence in Vera Cruz and during the passage home. The accounts and vouchers were duly rendered to the War Department, and in reference to it the Secretary, after saying that the papers do not present evidence that the persons belonged to the army, concludes "there can, however, be but little doubt that the persons provided for by Mr. Pammores had really gone into Mexico with the army in one capacity or another, and the impolicy of permitting them to remain there, objects of fear and dislike to the Mexicans, is so obvious, that I have felt a strong dispo-

sition to settle the claim if I should find it within the scope of my authority to do so. This, however, I regret to say, is not the case."

The committee think that the course pursued by the vice consul, under the peculiar and urgent circumstances of the case, was highly commendable and meritorious, and that he is entitled to the prompt reimbursement of the amount expended, with interest from the time of the presentation of his accounts at the department, and they report a bill accordingly.